UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.upubo.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/842,417 | 04/25/2001 | Rogers C. Ritter | 5236-000227 | 7860 |
| Bryan K. Wheelock Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C. Suite 400 7700 Bonhomme St. Louis, MO 63105 | | | EXAMINER | |
| | | | CASLER, BRIAN L | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3737 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 03/02/2009 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ROGERS C. RITTER,
JEFFREY M. GARIBALDI, CHARLES WOLFERSBERGER,
FRANCIS M. CREIGHTON, PETER R. WERP,
BEVIL J. HOGG and WALTER M. BLUME

Application No. 09/842,417 Technology Center 3700

Mailed: March 2, 2009

Before PAMELA S. BENNETT, Review Team Paralegal. BENNETT, Review Team Paralegal.

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on February 18, 2009. A review of the application revealed that it is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the Examiner to address the following matter requiring attention prior to docketing.

EXAMINER'S CONSIDERATION OF REPLY BRIEF

A Reply Brief was filed in this application on February 3, 2009. There is no evidence on the record indicating that the Examiner has considered the Reply Brief in accordance with 37 CFR § 41.43(a)(1) and § 1208, part II, of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP) (Eighth Edition, Rev. 6, September 2007).

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the application is returned to the Examiner:

- 1) to consider the Reply Brief filed February 3, 2009 as indicated above; and
 - 2) for such further action as may be appropriate.

If there are any questions pertaining to this Order, please contact the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at 571-272-9797.

PSB

Bryan K. Wheelock Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C. Suite 400 7700 Bonhomme St. Louis, MO 63105